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# Barber Lecture Addresses Relationship between Education and Capitalism

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### [Barber Lecture Addresses Relationship between Education and Capitalism](#)

*Summary: David Tse-Chien Pan, professor of German at the University of California, Irvine, will deliver the lecture.*

MORRIS, Minnesota (November 4, 2015)—David Tse-Chien Pan, professor of German at the University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine), will be the featured speaker at the 2015 Barber Lecture on Monday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Humanities Fine Arts Recital Hall. The title of Pan's talk is "Goethe's Wilhelm Meister and Political Representation."

Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* and *Wilhelm Meister's Journeyman Years* establish an interpretive shift in the structure of individual development. By bracketing out the political element of education, these books treat individual development as a process that goes on between individual and world, as if this world were not already a product of a set of interpretive and thus political decisions about the structure of order. The main premises behind this move are that pedagogy is designed to open up possibilities rather than to impose constraints and that pedagogy should link the human to the natural in a way that harmonizes the two. While the first premise has a capitalist subtext, the second premise seeks to ground this capitalist ethic in nature itself. Both of these premises serve to establish a model of social mobility that breaks down hierarchy while at the same time affirming the legitimacy of an economically based system that excludes political questions.

David Pan received his PhD in 1995 from Columbia University and has since taught at Washington University (St. Louis), Stanford University, and Penn State University before coming to UC Irvine in 2006 and has been an editorial associate and is currently the book review editor at Telos and the executive director of the Telos-Paul Piccone Institute. His research has focused on the problem of aesthetic experience as a mediator of human history

The Barber Lecture Series is made possible by a gift to the University of Minnesota, Morris from Laird Barber, professor emeritus of English, and the late Dorothy Barber.

The 2015 Barber Lecture is free and open to the public. Additional information is available at [morris.umn.edu/academics/english/barber](http://morris.umn.edu/academics/english/barber).

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